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Subject: Dominican Bank Owner Gets 3 Years For \$1B Bribery Scheme
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Law360 Florida



FLORIDA

Friday, November 30, 2018



TOP NEWS

Dominican Bank Owner Gets 3 Years For \$1B Bribery Scheme

The former owner of a Dominican Republic bank was sentenced Thursday in Florida federal court to three years in prison for his role in a \$1 billion bribery and money laundering scheme he carried out with a billionaire Venezuelan television mogul and others. [Read full article »](#)

Homeowner Sues Miami Beach Over Short-Term Rental Ban

A Miami Beach homeowner is challenging a city ordinance restricting short-term rentals on platforms like Airbnb, claiming the city has imposed “constitutionally excessive” fines and cut off electricity and water for violations. [Read full article »](#)

Fla. Defense Attys Back RJR In New Trial Fight With Smoker

The Florida Defense Lawyers Association showed its support Wednesday for a new trial ordered between R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. and a smoker, citing the company's inability to sufficiently question potential jurors in a case that could have a statewide impact. [Read full article »](#)

Attys Agree To Join Patriot National Suits, But Spar On Venue

Counsel for two sets of investors in bankrupt Patriot National Inc. went before the U.S. Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation on Thursday, with each arguing that separate suits over Patriot's alleged fraud scheme should be consolidated but disagreeing on whether they should be taken up in New York or Florida. [Read full article »](#)

REAL ESTATE & DEVELOPMENT

Real Estate Rumors: DR Horton, Rabsky, WeWork

Homebuilder DR Horton is said to have bought 13.6 acres in Florida, a Rabsky Group venture has reportedly landed a \$65 million loan for a New York residential and retail project and WeWork is said to be taking 29,000 square feet in New York's Hudson Square neighborhood. [Read full article »](#)

ENFORCEMENT

Fla. Pharmacist Gets 6½ Years For Bogus Claims For Creams

A Florida licensed pharmacist was sentenced Thursday to 6½ years in prison for participating in a \$3.4 million scheme to submit fraudulent claims to Tricare, Medicare and private insurance programs for compounded creams that were not necessary. [Read full article »](#)

LITIGATION

Suit Filed In Fla. Over Brazilian Soccer Club Plane Crash

A lawsuit alleging negligence and wrongful death was filed in Florida state court Tuesday against the owners and operators of a plane that crashed in Colombia in 2016, killing 71 of 77 people on board, including members of the professional Brazilian soccer club Chapecoense. [Read full article »](#)

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Yacht Co.'s \$2.2M Award From Chinese Ship Builder OK'd

A Florida federal court judge has confirmed \$2.2 million in awards issued in favor of a U.S. yacht company in a dispute over construction and delivery of a 40-foot motor yacht, entering default judgment against a Chinese yacht builder who failed to respond to the petition to confirm the awards.

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EXPERT ANALYSIS

FinCEN Tightens The Net On Illicit Real Estate Deals

Geographic targeting orders released this month indicate that the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network remains concerned about money laundering risks in the real estate sector — and the anonymity of transactions that use virtual currency, say attorneys with Mayer Brown LLP. [Read full article »](#)

Climate Change Lawsuits Face Crucial Hurdles

The close of 2018 brings a chance to look at the state of climate change lawsuits filed in the last few years by both government entities and groups of young Americans. While each case type employs different legal strategies, both face similar challenges, says John Lee of Goldberg Segalla.

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LEGAL INDUSTRY

Law Firm Brass Say Clients Won't Let The Billable Hour Die

The billable hour is not on its way out any time soon and that, some law firm leaders say, is largely due to the preferences of corporate clients that in many cases prefer hourly billing to alternative fee arrangements when paying for outside counsel. [Read full article »](#)

2nd GOP Senator's 'No' Vote Likely Sinks Trump Court Pick

Another of President Donald Trump's judicial nominees had his hopes dashed Thursday as Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., came out as a "no" vote on Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart PC shareholder Thomas Farr, making it unlikely he will be confirmed as a district court judge in North Carolina. [Read full article »](#)

Hueston Partner, Ex-Munger Atty Among 12 New Calif. Judges

California Gov. Jerry Brown appointed 12 superior court judges across the state Thursday, including a Hueston Hennigan LLP intellectual property and technology partner and Brown's current deputy legal affairs secretary, who was previously at Munger Tolles & Olson LLP. [Read full article »](#)

Ex-Trump Atty Vows To Cooperate With Federal Raid

A real estate tax lawyer and powerful Chicago politician who represented President Donald Trump until May averred to cooperate fully with the federal authorities who raided his offices Thursday, seizing computer equipment and boxes of papers. [Read full article »](#)

Michael Cohen Admits To Lying About Contacts With Russia

Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's former personal attorney and political champion, admitted to a count of lying to Congress on Thursday morning, telling a Manhattan federal judge he made false statements about the extent of his contacts with Moscow during campaign-season discussions about a Trump real estate project. [Read full article »](#)

Attys OK To Accept Fees From Crowdfunding, DC Bar Says

Attorneys may accept payment that was generated via crowdfunding under most circumstances, but their ethical obligations increase if they become more closely involved in the crowdfunding effort, according to a new opinion by the District of Columbia Bar. [Read full article »](#)

Law360's Weekly Verdict: Legal Lions & Lambs

Loeb & Loeb LLP snagged this week's top spot on the legal lions list with a

Safirstein Metcalf

Schiff Hardin

Shearman & Sterling

Stevens & Lee

Tache Bronis

COMPANIES

Abbott Laboratories

Airbnb Inc.

Altman Weil Inc.

Amazon.com Inc.

American Electric Power Co. Inc.

American Media Inc.

BTG PLC

Boston Scientific Corp.

Cisco Systems Inc.

D. R. Horton Inc.

District of Columbia Bar Association

Dole Food Company Inc.

Florida Power & Light Co.

Ford Motor Co.

Goldman Sachs Group Inc.

Google Inc.

IU Health Inc.

International Paper Co.

JetBlue Airways Corp.

Jones Lang LaSalle Inc.

LG Electronics Inc.

Law Practice Consultants LLC

LinkedIn Corp.

NBCUniversal Inc.

New York State Bar Association

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

Our Children's Trust

PNC Financial Services Group Inc.

Patriot National Inc.

Perspecta Inc.

Petco Animal Supplies Inc.

Ping An Insurance

Pizza Hut Inc.

R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. Inc.

Southwest Airlines Co.

T-Mobile USA Inc.

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd.

Technicolor

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Limited

TiVo Corp.

Trump Organization Inc.

Valero Energy Corp.

Warner Music Group Corp.

Washington Post Co.

WeWork LLC

verdict clearing client Tata of a discrimination class action, while Morris Nichols Arsht & Tunnell LLP ended up among the legal lambs after its client, the University of Wisconsin, lost in a \$32 million drug patent licensing lawsuit. [Read full article »](#)

Feature

The Top In-House Hires Of November

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital named a former Cleveland Clinic attorney as its chief legal officer and general counsel, and Petco picked an ex-Dole Food Co. lawyer to be the company's new chief legal officer. [Read full article »](#)

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